**NOVELIST ZHIRINOVSKY ADVOCATES CLOSURE OF BORDERS.** At a 16 February press conference, Russian Liberal Democratic Party leader Vladimir Zhirinovsky suggested that Russia's borders be sealed for five to 10 years to prevent the Baltic States and countries in the south from capitalizing on the country's natural wealth. Later that day, Zhirinovsky celebrated the release of his novel, titled Last Train North. The book includes a preface in which the author suggests that many Russian politicians, including former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as well as Boris Yeltsin and his entire team, be sent to the sites of the former Stalinist camps. -- Julia Wishnevsky, OMRI, Inc.

**AMBER GALORE.** Baltic News Service reports that during the last 10 months of 1994, the stock company Russian Amber extracted 417 tons of amber from mines in the Kaliningrad region. Russian Amber is the only company producing amber in Kaliningrad. The company is currently estimated to have about 780 tons of amber in stock. In 1994, 120 tons of amber were exported from Kaliningrad while 97 tons were sold on the domestic market.